

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17.

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Requests for Budget Amendments**

*October 16, 2003*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2004 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to reimburse emergency expenses to suppress forest fires in FY 2003.

These amendments would adjust upward the total discretionary budget authority requested by \$0.4 billion, bringing the total discretionary funding agreed to by my Administration and the Congress to \$786.0 billion. While this request increases total discretionary spending beyond the previously agreed upon level, my Administration and congressional leadership determined earlier this year that emergency funding could be added when mutually agreed upon in advance. This request is consistent with that agreement.

The requests in this transmittal are for the purpose of fulfilling known and urgent requirements that cannot reasonably be met through the use of existing agency funds. I hereby designate the specific proposals in the amounts requested herein as emergency requirements.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

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**Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest an-

nounced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

**October 11**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

**October 12**

During the day, the President returned to Washington, DC.

**October 13**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President participated in interviews with regional television stations.

**October 14**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and later met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President participated in television and radio interviews with Asian journalists. He also dropped by a meeting between Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, Office of Management and Budget Director Joshua B. Bolten, and other officials and bipartisan Senators to discuss proposed legislation concerning reconstruction aid to Iraq.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to celebrations on October 16–20 at the Vatican in Rome, Italy, marking the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's pontificate and the beatification of Mother Teresa: Columba Bush (head of delegation); James R. Nicholson; Jim Towey; Mary Ellen Bork; Frances Winfield Bremer; Joseph C. Canizaro; Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV; Raymond L. Flynn; Mary Ann Glendon; Deal W. Hudson; John M. Klink; Sister Mary Rose McGeady, DC; Peggy Noonan; Kate O'Beirne; and Gabrielle Reynolds.

**October 15**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Dinuba, CA.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Fresno, CA. Later, he traveled to Riverside, CA.